

12/06/06

RE: Michigan House Bill 5267

Dear Chairman Stahl and Family and Children Services Committee Members:

Imagine being an active daily part of your children's life and suddenly they were taken away from you. You were a fit and loving parent that had always dreamed of one thing and that is being the best father to your children. My children adored me and my wife bragged about how incredible I was as a husband. She even highlighted to friends, family members and strangers about how I was the ONLY husband who went to her breastfeeding class to support her.

My wife had an affair with a co-worker that she worked with. I discovered this through her text messages between her and this other married man. My wife also gave my son a spiral fracture of his femur. She was investigated by child protective services in Indiana for this. **I had recordings of her stating that if I did not give her the marital home that she would "go for full-custody of our children". The children were being used as bargaining chips for a house.** This is domestic violence on her part towards me. Many men are fearful of leaving their marriages from an abusive wife because of the virtually guaranteed loss of time with their children.

My son, in particular, has numerous problems because of being ripped away from his father. He stutters, has aggressive traits at his school, and is very sensitive and serious. How would you be as a child if you saw your father every day and was then forced to only see him 4-6 days a month. Both of my children, prior to being deprived of the love and affection of their father, were kids that loved to smile and laugh. My son asks me every time I see him if he can spend more time with me.

The FOC and the "best interests" factors failed me AND MY CHILDREN! I fought in court to the point of losing EVERYTHING I had. I gave away my entire 401K to just get 1 more day per month with my children. I miss my children and they miss me. Sometimes it is sad to hear other children playing outside and you wished your children were with you. Everyday I have to walk by their empty rooms when they are at their mothers. Sometimes I will look into their rooms before bed out of habit of doing so when they are at my house and then the deep sad feeling hits me knowing that I have 6 more days till I get to see them again.

This committee has a very important task today. Michigan is being left behind once again by more progressive states that have child and family friendly child custody laws. According to the Children's Rights Council's study over 30 states have child custody laws that are better for children and families. Shared Parenting states are GROWING, despite what some radical agenda driven groups would like you to believe.

Some would tell you that moving back and forth between two homes is bad for the children. It is far more disruptive to lose the impact a loving fit parent can make in a child's life. In visitation there are two homes! Are those that use this objection against visitation?

Michigan House Bill 5267 does not change: 1) The Michigan Child Support Formula 2) Current Domestic Violence Laws and protections within those laws.

Michigan House Bill 5267 is a children's rights bill that will benefit our children and society. Families are being torn apart by federal incentives as states like Michigan go into a feeding frenzy for the Title IV-D monies. Sole custody awards are driven by this inherent greed under the guise of the "best interests of the children". Michigan should be ashamed of these statistics:

Michigan has the largest number of families in Title IV-D per capita in the nation exceeding California by over 2 to 1.

Michigan also has the largest ratio of Title IV-D cases per minor child in the nation. Surpassing California by 236 percent: 41.52% vs. 17.63%

What does that say about our state? As a state, does Michigan value money over the welfare of our children? Politics can no longer be played with the two most important assets for Michigan's future health = 1) Children 2) Stable families.

The only thing I ask is that all committee members vote yes or no. No politics. No passing on this vote. You sit on this committee to make such difficult decisions for our state. A vote of no or passing on this vote is turning a blind eye to the current state of our family courts and our children. Statistics can be altered and tweaked for anyone to make their case. You know what the right vote is in your heart for our children and for our families. By not being passed out of this committee you will be denying a child's right to EQUAL time and love with BOTH fit parents. You will allow Michigan to continue its destructive course.

Respectfully,

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A Child's Right – co-founder
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